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Richard Henshaw, Jr., Acting Managing Editor

Telephone: (212) 867-8400

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[Backgrounders]

DPS 88196

Editor's Note: The Episcopal Church Center has been receiving a heavy volume of inquiries in recent days and weeks about upcoming diocesan elections in which there are women candidates for the House of Bishops. It may be useful for editors and reporters to have on hand the following short biographies of the three women candidates currently up for election and a description of the canonical process for the consecration of a bishop. The three candidates covered below are official nominees of diocesan nominating committees, and it should be noted that in some dioceses nominations from the floor are also possible.

Biographies of Current Women Candidates for the House of Bishops

Nominated for Suffragan Bishop of Massachusetts are the Ven. Denise L.G. Haines and the Rev. Barbara C. Harris. Election: Sept. 24, 1988.

Nominated for Suffragan Bishop of Minnesota is the Rev. Margo E. Maris. Election: Oct. 29, 1988.


DENISE LEE GAMES HAINES, Archdeacon for Missions and Urban Ministry, Diocese of Newark, was born March 7, 1939 in Wilmington, Del. She received a B.A. degree in 1960 from the University of Delaware, and an M.Div. in 1977 from General Theological Seminary. She was ordained deacon in June 1977 and priest in Dec. 1977, and has three children.

She was Chaplain Supervisor at the Allentown State Hospital, Allentown, Pa., 1977-80; Priest-in-charge at St. Paul's, Chatham, N.J., in 1980; and Associate Rector at St. Paul's, Chatham, 1981-83. She has been in her present position since 1983. From 1981 to 1983, she was a Pastoral Fellow at General Theological Seminary.

BARBARA CLEMENTINE HARRIS, Executive Director of the Episcopal Church Publishing Co. and Associate at Church of the Advocate, Philadelphia, Pa., Diocese of Pennsylvania, was born on June 12, 1930 in Philadelphia. She attended Villanova University from 1977 to 1979 and the Metropolitan Collegiate Center in Philadelphia in 1976. She was ordained deacon in Sept. 1979 and priest in Oct. 1980, and she holds an honorary D.S.T. degree from Hobart and William Smith Colleges.

She was an Assistant at Church of the Advocate, Philadelphia, 1979-80; Chaplain, Philadelphia County Prisons, 1980-84; and Priest-in-charge at St. Augustine of Hippo, Morristown, Pa., 1980-84. She has been in her present positions since 1984, and in June 1988 was appointed Interim-in-charge at Church of the Advocate.

MARGO ELAINE MARIS, Bishop's Advisor for Clergy Development and Deployment in the Diocese of Minnesota, was born on November 9, 1942 in Portland, Ore. She received a B.A. degree in 1964 from Willamette Univ., an M.A. in 1967 from George Washington Univ., and an M.Div. in



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1978 from the Church Divinity School of the Pacific. She was ordained deacon in January 1978 and priest in January 1979. She is married and has one adopted child.

She was an Assistant to the Dean of St. Matthew's Cathedral, Laramie, Wyo., 1978-80; Rector of Trinity Church, Elk River, Minn., 1980-84; Interim Rector at St. Christopher's, Roseville, Minn., 1984-86; and Interim Rector at St. Andrew's, Minneapolis, 1986-88. She has been in her present position since early in 1988.

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A Summary of Procedures For Consecration (Title III. Canon 21)

1. The electing Diocese immediately notifies the Office of the Presiding Bishop of the election. Written confirmation to the Presiding Bishop should follow verbal notification.
2. The Bishop-elect notifies the Presiding Bishop of his acceptance to the election in writing.
3. The Office of the Presiding Bishop, upon receipt of the Bishop-elect's completed medical and psychological forms, informs the President of the Standing Committee of the electing Diocese and encloses duplicate copies of the certificate forms. The polling of the Standing Committees is then initiated by the electing diocese.
4. The electing Diocese notifies the Office of the Presiding Bishop immediately upon receiving a majority of consents of the Standing Committees of the dioceses. Sixty consents are considered a majority.

The electing Diocese sends to the Office of the Presiding Bishop copies of the Testimonials including a list of the consenting Standing Committees, the Certificate of Election, the Testimonial of Election, and the Evidence of Ordination to the Diaconate and Priesthood.

5. The Office of the Presiding Bishop then requests the consents of the Bishops with jurisdiction.
6. The Office of the Presiding Bishop, upon receipt of a majority of consents from the Bishops having jurisdiction, sends To Wit letter to the President of the Standing Committee of the electing Diocese with copies to:
 - (1) The Secretary of the House of Bishops
 - (2) The Secretary of the General ConventionThe Secretary of the House of Bishops will then send to the electing Diocese the Testimonial From the Bishops Pertaining to the Ordination and Consecration of the Bishop-elect.

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7. The Office of the Presiding Bishop, upon receipt of the Consecration Worksheet from the Bishop-elect and after receiving the majority of consents from the Bishops, sends the Take Order letter to the Secretary of the House of Bishops.
8. The Presiding Bishop sends a letter of appointment to each of the bishops named as a coconsecrator.

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WCC World Mission and Evangelism Conference Announced DPS 88197

NEW YORK (DPS, Sep. 22) --The World Council of Churches has announced its first major activity to be held in the United States in many years. It is a World Conference on Mission and Evangelism planned for next year on the campus of Trinity University in San Antonio, Texas.

Six hundred participants are expected to gather, May 22-June 1, 1989, on the theme "Your Will Be Done: Mission in Christ's Way." Participation is by invitation only, and the Episcopal Church will be limited to two or three delegates. But in connection with the conference there will be: 1) visits by participants to churches and communities throughout North America, both before and after the conference; 2) a pre-conference event for youth participants; and 3) a parallel educational conference for interested persons in the region.

The conference planning group includes two Episcopalians: Judith M. Gillespie, Executive for World Mission at Episcopal Church Center, and the Rev. Wayne Schwab, Evangelism Officer at the Center. They will seek as much grass roots participation as possible, and would welcome further suggestions from around the Church.

To help congregations prepare for and participate in some of the issues to be raised at the conference, the WCC has prepared a study guide entitled "Your Will Be Done: Mission in Christ's Way."

"Are you ready to reconsider your missionary obedience as a Christian?" Schwab asks. "Is your congregation or Bible study group ready to enter, with Christians from all over the world, an intense search for God's will and an appropriate response?"

"If so, you will find these resources a stimulating challenge. Four stories from the third and first worlds, and from rural and urban areas, introduce themes for group engagement. Each of 10 Biblical reflections leads a group into substantive issues for discussion."

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The sub-themes around which the study material is organized are: 1) turning to the living God; 2) participating in suffering and struggle; 3) the earth is the Lord's; and 4) towards renewed communities in mission.

Single copies of the study guide are \$3.95 each and may be ordered from the World Council of Churches Distribution Center, P.O. Box 326, Kutztown, PA 19530; tel.: 1-800-523-8211.

For orders of 100 or more, the price per copy is \$2.00.

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Women May Be Best Hope for World Peace

DPS 88198

NEW YORK (DPS, Sep. 22) -- The hope for World peace in the 21st century may rest with women. Their natural gifts for birthing and nurturing can be a significant factor in the understanding of the planet's political and economic problems while the sacrifice inherent in both processes gives the women of the world insight into the requirements for achieving human rights and justice.

Five hundred women from 56 nations agreed that the world's progress is dependent on equal partnership between men and women in tackling the major issues. Their voices were raised at the first U.S.-based International Women's Conference on Global Peace, August 8-12, in Dallas, Texas. They discussed peace as a universal yearning, as a subject for an education curriculum, as a result of community building, and as an essential ingredient for the continuation of the planet.

As a result of plenary sessions featuring speeches on global concerns followed by dialogue and workshops on subjects ranging from conflict management to inner peace building, the women agreed they would go forth restored, confident and strong to spread the peace message and to involve themselves in existing issues.

Among the issues spotlighted by the five day conference were the sale of war toys to children, the persecution of Baha'i members in Iran, injustice in South Africa and Israel, the disillusion of fear of young people resulting from nuclear war capability, the current trend toward teaching conflict solution through use of power versus peaceful mediation.

Notable speakers, educators and writers who addressed the plenary sessions included M. Scott Peck, M.D., psychiatrist, author of such books as The People of the Lie and The Road Less Traveled; Leonor Huper, charge d'affaires for the Nicaraguan government stationed in Washington, D.C.; the Rev. Ruth Tiffany Barnhouse, M.D., Episcopal

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priest and professor at Perkins School of Theology; Annette Strauss, mayor of Dallas; and Nona Cannon, Ph.D. founder of the Peace University in Costa Rica. In addition numerous folk singers, acting groups and artists, many of them internationally known, brought their talents to the group on behalf of world peace.

Peace poles with the message "May Peace Prevail on Earth" in dozens of different languages, a large white dove hanging center stage during all the sessions, lifesized paper dolls portraying children around the world in their customary dress, several slide shows including a moving one of women's faces called "Mother Peace", and the Family Circus Theater presenting in satirical drama some of society's non-peaceful exercises, were among the special art features of the conference.

Scott Peck told the conference there can be no peace without community. The skills to build community must be understood and learned.

"Women underestimate their own gifts," said Ruth Barnhouse in her presentation, "Peace the Universal Yearning: the Voices of Women." "We are in serious trouble when the feminine principle is devalued. Women appreciate the role of emotion in good decision making."

The conference, sponsored by Peacemakers, Inc., of Dallas and co-sponsored by the International Office of Southern Methodist University, was the personal dream-made-reality of Vivian Castleberry, president of Peacemakers, Inc. She said the conference was designed to "give women a safe place in an undergirding network to become public peacemakers."

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BRIEF

Songs for Worship in Spanish Now Available

DPS 88199

NEW YORK (DPS, Sep. 22) -- The Center for Hispanic Ministries of the Province of the Southwest has announced the availability of an audio cassette of songs for worship in Spanish. "Unidos: A Cassette of Hispanic Christian Worship," consists of 17 songs, all but two of which are Spanish language in origin, from Mexico, Guatemala, Peru, El Salvador, North America, and Cambodia. Twenty-two non-professional performers from five Episcopal congregations recorded the songs with authentic arrangements in Houston's Church of the Redeemer under the direction of Sara Claassen. Voices are backed by strings, horns, percussion and keyboard instruments. This is the first recording ever made for the Episcopal Church of Hispanic worship music, says the Rev. Leopoldo J. Alard, who heads the Center. The songs speak to ways in which Jesus unifies his people and the people's response of gratitude and obedience, he says. Songs include "Alegria" (Song of Happiness), "Pescador de Hombres" (Fisher of Men), and "Yo Soy el Pan de Vida" (I am the Bread of Life). Cassettes may be ordered at \$8.00 each from the Center for Hispanic Ministries, P.O. Box 2247, Austin, TX 78768; tel.: (512) 477-2644.

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Notes to Editors

Correction

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In DPS #88186 (Sep.15), there was some confusion indicated over the dates of the annual meeting of the Episcopal Women's Caucus. The Conference on Women in the Episcopate will be held on October 27, 1988 from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. This conference will take place in the context of the annual meeting of the Episcopal Women's Caucus, which convenes on October 26th at 6 p.m. and adjourns on October 28th at noon.

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A Personal Note

October 1st will bring the end of my five month interim job agreement with the Presiding Bishop and the national Church's Office of Communication.

The great joy in this work has been to serve the Church by helping to strengthen the usefulness and effectiveness of the News Department in all its aspects. My having to hit the ground in high gear may not have gone unnoticed by DPS readers. I barely got family photos on the desk before making travel plans for General Convention and Lambeth Conference. But we have managed to move the enterprise forward, and I am grateful for the kind words of so many dozens of you -- bishops, diocesan editors, secular reporters -- too many to count -- in the past weeks and months. I am especially thankful for the faith placed in me by the Presiding Bishop and terrific support from the Church Center staff and my colleagues in the Office of Communication. My observation is that there is a sense of purpose and common ministry that is now in renewal at the Church Center -- no doubt attributable to the much maligned trickle-down theory.

The difficulty during these months has been constant separation from my wife and (very) small son, and as a result, I am anxious to return to Rochester after having lived out of a suitcase

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since April. As my family and I would like to remain in Upstate New York, I will not be seeking any permanent positions in the Communication Office when they are announced in a few weeks time -- please watch for notices in Diocesan Press Service mailings -- although there is other church-related work I do look forward to taking up from my home base in Rochester.

Thankfully, veteran writer John Ratti, who has been producing important materials for the Church and its agencies for many years, and who has contributed to DPS in recent months, is on hand to take over the editing of weekly DPS mailings until permanent editorships are filled. I hope DPS readers will give John and his successors the encouragement and support they well deserve. --Richard Henshaw, Jr.

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